NEUTRALS—4.

1 Messrs. P. S. Mahomed	3 Messrs. S. Piraviperumal Pillai
2 „ V. Chellam Pillai	4 „ G. P. Nilakanta Pillai

The resolution was declared carried, 25 voting for, 14 against and 4 remaining neutral.

PRESIDENT: The House will now pass on to resolution No. 5 which stands in the name of Mr. Thanu Pillai.

HOMES FOR DISABLED DESTITUTES.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Sir, I beg to move the following resolution.

"This Council recommends to the Government that homes for disabled destitutes be opened."

Sir, It is a non-controversial matter that I wish to place before this House for its consideration. We know what obtains in this country in regard to the condition of those who are unable to maintain themselves owing to disablity either from illness or from extreme old age and who are at the same time left without support from other persons. Sir, my object is to bring to the notice of the House the necessity for providing homes for these people. It is a matter of very common experience especially in towns like Trivandrum that a very large number of beggars are now let loose upon the population. There is absolutely nothing to regulate begging and the consequence is, that it amounts to a source of real nuisance to the people. Of course, we have to approach this question from more points of view than one. We have to consider firstly the condition of these unfortunate people themselves. That is apart from other considerations. There are a large number of people blind, deaf and otherwise disabled, who are real destitutes. There are also others who are stricken with disease and are therefore unable to earn their livelihood. There are very old and infirm people who have no means of support. There are at the same time a large number of orphan infants who are left without support. The question that is to be considered in connection with this resolution is no doubt a large one. But that question has to be faced. How to face it? That is what we have to consider. In this I propose to include only a fraction of this large problem. So far as I am able to see, there is only the Leprosy Regulation in Travancore, that in a way appears to have some bearing on this question, though it relates only to persons who are attacked by leprosy. A very large number of beggars in several places in Travancore suffer from leprosy. We find that people suffering from leprosy, siphilis and other diseases are let loose on the people so to say. One should be really ashamed to find that such a large number of disease stricken people carrying very easily contagious diseases with them are allowed to move from place to place througout the town. It is a matter of common experience that when one goes to the bus stand which is very close to this Hall to

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

get into some bus to leave the town and happens to remain there for a few minutes one will have the painful experience of being surrounded by a large number of disease stricken people who come for alms. The question is whether some provision should not be made for the housing and protection of these people who are thus unable to help themselves. I am not unmindful of the fact that what is to be considered in connection with the disease stricken people is the establishment of hospitals. I refer to this merely to show that this is a very large problem. What I mean to insist on in this resolution deals with only a part of that large problem. Now this refers to a class of people who can be divided into several sub-divisions. There are disease stricken people who have to be provided for.

Apart from the question of people suffering from contagious diseases, there is an other aspect of the matter. There are disabled destitutes whose condition we have to consider. This is what I intend to bring to the notice of this House by means of this resolution. There is no knowing now as to the number of people who will have to be provided with homes like those contemplated in this resolution.

ADJOURNMENT MOTION RE WANT OF IRRIGATION FACILITIES.

PRESIDENT : It is now 3-30. This discussion will now stop and the House will take up for discussion the adjournment motion of Mr. N. K. Krishna Pillai.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : Sir, you need hardly be told that we Travancoreans are mainly agriculturists and that rice is our staple food. For the proper cultivation of paddy sufficient facilities of irrigation are absolutely necessary. We know but too well that the ryots in Travancore are becoming poorer and poorer day by day. The cost of cultivation is increasing because the prices of the necessaries of life are also increasing. But, along with that we also see that the cultivator's margin of profit is not increasing. One of the main causes for this is, I submit, want of sufficient facilities for water, and we know for instance that fields which were yielding ten or fifteen folds of crops till some years back, are now yielding only 5 folds and in some places I know that they yield only 3 fold crops. It was in view of this deplorable state of affairs that during the past so many years the representatives of the people both in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and also in this Council have been bringing to the notice of the Government the extreme hardship and untold misery to which the people are put due to want of proper irrigational facilities. But I do not mean to say that the Government are not doing anything in the matter. My complaint is that the response made by the Government is not adequate enough. They are not attending to this most vital problem

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly